GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5668
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
VISAS TO NIGERIAN NATIONALS
Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether visas were issued to Nigerian nationals by the Government during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many of them have not left the country even after the expiry of their visas;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether some of the Nigerian Nationals are engaged in drug trafficking, supply of weapons and espionage etc;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINSTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes. 7908, 9769 and 11178 visas were issued to Nigerian nationals in 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

(c) & (d) Instances of Nigerian nationals overstaying their visa period in India have been coming to the notice of the Government from time to time. Their overstay is mainly because of economic reasons.

(e) & (f) Some cases of involvement of Nigerians in narcotic trade, forgeries, fraud, cheating etc., have come to the notice of the Government. 50, 75 and 72 Nigerian nationals were arrested during year 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively for various crimes.

(g) The Indian Missions/Posts abroad have been instructed to scrutinise strictly visa applications of Nigerian nationals keeping in view their financial status, availability of return ticket and proper verification of their antecedents. They are required to ensure that the type of visa is commensurate with the actual purpose of visit. Missions/Posts are also required to insist on personal interviews of Nigerian nationals to assess their financial status. They have been further instructed to avoid generally granting multiple-entry visas.